

THE SILENT LANGUAGE. By Edward T. Hall. (New York: Doubleday. 1959.  
Pp. 240. \$3.95.)

Practically everyone in and out of government is full of ideas for practical steps to make U. S. representatives abroad more effective. Dr. Hall's book seeks to lay a theoretical basis for these practical efforts, to the extent that they are directed toward minimizing the reaction that takes place when one moves into the area of a foreign culture. Some people have chosen to call this <sup>reaction a</sup> "culture shock". Hall ~~describes~~ <sup>explains</sup> it as the "removal or distortion of many of the familiar cues one encounters at home and the substitution for them of other cues which are strange." Proceeding from the proposition that "most people's difficulties with each other can be traced to distortions in communication," The Silent Language "treats culture in its entirety as a form of communications" as it seeks to outline "a theory of culture and a theory of how culture came into being" and to present "the technical tools for probing the secrets of culture."

The author should know what he is writing about. He is an anthropologist who has travelled and worked abroad to develop principles and concepts for teaching U. S. representatives how to be more effective. He has done such teaching in the State Department, the Strategic Intelligence School, and elsewhere. He now makes this subject his business.

The study points out basic differences in languages and ways of speaking, but emphasizes the actions which speak louder than words, and

particularly the kind of communication that takes place "out of awareness".

"This notion," it says, "that there are significant portions of the personality that exist out of one's own awareness but which are there for everyone else to see may seem frightening. The point, however, is a crucial one and will grow in importance as men begin to grasp its implications".

Hall makes another point of major significance for anyone who anticipates service abroad when he says: "What complicates matters, however, is that people reared in different cultures learn to learn differently."

Some readers may not be persuaded of the validity of the author's conceptual construction. His time, space, and order as communications media seem unnecessarily abstruse. His "map of culture" may be over-billed as "a mathematics of cultures". His classification of behavior patterns as formal, informal, and technical is an effort toward unattainable precision. He uses a great many words in a specialized sense when it seems that a garden variety of meaning would serve the purpose just as well.

But dissatisfactions such as these only serve to point up Dr. Hall's own contention that there is much work to be done in this field. The understanding of foreign cultures is critical to intelligence operations and to intelligence analysis; and such a considerable contribution of new thinking as The Silent Language makes can but stimulate more progress toward this understanding.

  
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ROMMEL RUFT KAIRO. (Rommel Calling Cairo) By John W. Eppler.  
(Guetersloh: C. Bertelsmann Verlag. 1959. Pp. 300.)

Operation Condor was a bold, even desperate stroke aimed at placing a German resident agent in the heart of the British North African command center, who could provide Rommel with vitally needed order of battle information. It failed, partly because of bad luck, but mainly because of the almost incredibly insecure, brash "cowboy" operational methods used by the agent.

Published just on the heels of a British account of the same events<sup>1</sup>, Eppler's tale of his espionage activities in Cairo for Field Marshal Erwin Rommel during the struggle for North Africa reveals little new substantive information. Mosley's report, reviewed in the previous number of Studies<sup>2</sup>, will be of more interest to the professional intelligence officer.

Eppler has told an adventure story in a romantic, intensely personal style characteristic of much of the recent spate of German war reminiscences. The fact that a motion picture is being made in Germany based on Operation Condor is perhaps indicative of the nature of the book.

We learn nothing from Eppler about how he was spotted and recruited by the Abwehr; the story opens with his posting to Rommel in North Africa, and the first 130 pages deal with the problems and

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<sup>1</sup>Leonard Mosley, The Cat and the Mice. (London: Arthur Barker Limited, 1958. 160 pp.)

<sup>2</sup>~~Studies in Intelligence~~, Vol. 3, No. 2, Spring 1959.

experiences of his 4,000 kilometer trip across the Sahara to reach the target area. Passing mention is given to technical intelligence preparations for the mission, such as documentation, communications equipment, clothing, etc. Inasmuch as he is arrested by British security forces on page 216, and from then on deals with his treatment by his interrogators, it will be seen that he gives relatively little space to his actual work in Cairo. Details on the recruiting of sub-agents are almost completely lacking, as well as a useful account of what, if anything, was accomplished. One incident, that of the separation of the British courier from his pouch of battle plans by the belly-dancer Hekmath Fathmy, is given; a satisfactory account of this is available from Mosley.

Eppler never again made radio contact with Abwehr base stations after his initial report upon arrival because the two special Abwehr radiomen assigned to service him had been posted too close to the front by order of Rommel and had been captured with their codes during a raid by the Long Range Desert Patrol. Eppler was cut off (eingemauert) after this in order to prevent a play-back. Eppler's radioman tried night after night without success to make contact with base station; the title of the book, in view of this, would more logically read Cairo Calling Rommel.

Mosley deals at some length with the tracking down of Eppler by British security forces. Eppler's own account adds nothing of significance to this.

This book can be safely passed by, especially by those who have  
read The Cat and The Mice.



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